Missions promptly take up such cases with the local government authorities for their early release and repatriation.

(c) and (d) As per information received from the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur, presently there are 489 Indian nationals held in various detention centers/jails in Malaysia for immigration offences.

Unscientific programmes on TV

-*240. SHRI S.K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic media often telecast unscientific serials on ghosts and super powers;

(b) whether Government agree that such programmes have serious adverse effects on both children's and adult's mind creating baseless beliefs; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to stop such unscientific programmes on TV screen?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes Sir, some reports have been received on similar subject.

(b) No such study has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) All programmes of satelite TV channels transmitted or re-transmitted through cable service are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme/Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code *inter-alia* prohibits carriage of any programme that encourages superstition, blind belief, denigrates children etc. The provisions of the Code are given in the enclosed statement *(see* below). With a view to look into the violation of the Programme/Advertising Codes, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act. The Committee either suo-motu or on receipt of complaints, examines cases of violation of the Codes. If any violation is noted by the Committee, the same is communicated to the Government and action is taken against the TV channels as per rules, thereafter.

Statement

6. **Programme Code.** — *(1)* No programme should be carried in the cable service which:—

(a) Offends against good taste or decency;

(b) Contains criticism of friendly countries;

(c) Contains attack on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes;

(d) Contains anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths;

(e) Is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promote anti-national attitudes;

(f) Contains anything amounting to contempt of court;

(g) Contains aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;

(h) Contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation;

(i) Criticises, maligns or slanders any individual in person or certain groups, segments of social, public and moral life of the country;

(j) Encourages superstition or blind belief;

(k) Denigrates women through the depiction in any manner of the figure of a women, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals;

(I) Denigrates children;

(m) Contains visuals or words which reflect a slandering, ironical and snobbish attitude in the portrayal of certain ethnic, linguistic and regional groups;

(n) Contravenes the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952;

5(o) Is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

"Provide that no film or film song or film promo or film trailer or music video or music albums or their promos, whether produced in India or abroad, shall be carried through cable service unless it has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) as suitable for unrestricted public exhibition in India".

Explanation — For the purpose of this clause, the expression "unrestricted public exhibition" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952);

(2) The cable operator should strive to carry programmes in his cable service which project women in a positive, leadership role of sobriety, moral and character building qualities.

6(3) No cable operator shall carry or include in his cable service any programme in respect of which copyright subsists under the Copyright Act, 1957 (14 of 1957) unless he has been granted a licence by owners of copyright under the Act in respect of such programme.

(4) Care should be taken to ensure that programmes meant for children do not contain any bad language or explicit scenes of violence.

(5) Programmes unsuitable for children must not be carried in the cable service at times when the largest numbers of children are viewing.

(6) No cable operator shall carry or include in his cable service any television broadcast or channel, which has not been registered by the Central Government for being viewed within the territory of India".

Provided that a cable operator may continue to carry or include in his cable service any Television broadcast or channel, who has made an application for registration to the Central Government on or before the date of commencement of this notification, for a period of six months from the date of such commencement or till such registration has been granted or refused, whichever is earlier:

Provided further that channels uplinking from India, in accordance with permission for uplinking granted before 2nd December, 2005, shall be treated as "registered" television channels and can be carried or included in the cable service.